

Atty's 21534

Pat. App. 09/672,252

CLAIM AMENDMENT

1 to 3 (canceled)

1 4. (currently amended) The partition defined in claim 1
2 wherein A partition for a column having means for separation of
3 substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two
4 mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously
5 with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall
6 elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling
7 relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to
8 enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said
9 column, said connector includes including a pair of strips affixed
10 to opposite faces of said one of said wall elements and projecting
11 beyond said edge of said one of said wall elements to form a said
12 slot receiving the other wall element and overlapping opposite
13 faces thereof at said edge of said other wall element.

1 5. (currently amended): The partition defined in claim 1
2 wherein A partition for a column having means for separation of
3 substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two
4 mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously
5 with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall
6 elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling
7 relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to
8 enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said
9 column, said connector includes including a first strip mounted on

Atty's 21534

Pat. App. 09/672,252

10 said one of said wall elements parallel to said edge of said one of
11 said wall elements and a spacer between said strip and a face of
12 said one of said wall elements whereby said strip defines a slot
13 with said one of said wall elements along the edge of said one of
14 said wall elements, said slot receiving said edge of said other
15 wall element, said strip overlapping said other of said wall
16 elements.

1 6. (currently amended): The partition defined in claim 1
2 wherein A partition for a column having means for separation of
3 substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two
4 mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously
5 with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall
6 elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling
7 relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to
8 enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said
9 column, said connector includes including a step formed in said
10 edge of said one of said wall elements in which said edge of said
11 other wall element is received, and a strip juxtaposed with said
12 other wall element, secured to said one of said wall elements and
13 defining a said slot with said step, in which said edge of said
14 other wall elements is being received in said slot.

Atty's 21534

Pat. App. 09/672,252

1 7. (currently amended) : The partition defined in claim
2 1, further comprising A partition for a column having means for
3 separation of substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at
4 least two mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially
5 contiguously with one another, and a connector along an edge of one
6 of said wall elements receiving an edge of the other wall element
7 enabling relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes
8 thereof to enable said partition to span between opposite sides of
9 said column, and a strip of stepped cross section secured to said
10 one of said wall elements and forming said connector, said strip
11 defining said slot receiving said edge of said other wall element.

8. (canceled).

1 9. (currently amended) The partition defined in claim 1
2 wherein A partition for a column having means for separation of
3 substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two
4 mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously
5 with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall
6 elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling
7 relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to
8 enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said
9 column, said connector includes including at least one strip
10 connected by spot welds to said one of said wall elements along
11 said edge of said one of said wall elements.

Atty's 21534

Pat. App. 09/672,252

10 and 11 (canceled)

1 12. (currently amended) The partition defined in claim
2 wherein A partition for a column having means for separation of
3 substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two
4 mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously
5 with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall
6 elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling
7 relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to
8 enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said
9 column, said connector includes including at least one strip
10 fastened along said edge of said one of said wall elements and
11 secured thereto by threaded bolt connections.

13. (canceled)

14. (cancelled)

1 15. (currently amended) The partition defined in claim
2 wherein A partition for a column having means for
3 separation of substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at
4 least two mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially
5 contiguously with one another, and a connector along an edge of one
6 of said wall elements receiving an edge of the other wall element
7 enabling relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes
8 thereof to enable said partition to span between opposite sides of
9 said column, and sealing elements along at least one edge of the
10 partition contacting a wall of said column, said sealing elements

Atty's 21534

Pat. App. 09/672,252

11 are being composed of thin slitted sheet metal or a metal fabric.

1 16. (currently amended) The partition defined in claim
2 wherein said A partition for a column having means for
3 separation of substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at
4 least two mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially
5 contiguously with one another, and a connector along an edge of one
6 of said wall elements receiving an edge of the other wall element
7 enabling relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes
8 thereof to enable said partition to span between opposite sides of
9 said column, and sealing elements along at least one edge of the
10 partition contacting a wall of said column, said sealing elements
11 are being resilient sealing lips.

1 17. (currently amended) The partition defined in claim
2 wherein, A partition for a column having means for separation of
3 substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two
4 mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously
5 with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall
6 elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling
7 relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to
8 enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said
9 column, lateral faces of said wall elements are being rectangular
10 or triangular.

Atty's 21534

Pat. App. 09/672,252

1 18. (currently amended) The partition defined in claim
2 wherein, A partition for a column having means for separation of
3 substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two
4 mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously
5 with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall
6 elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling
7 relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to
8 enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said
9 column, said connector includes including at least one strip
10 overlapping said other all element and affixed to said one of said
11 wall elements and forming a sealing connection between said wall
12 elements at said edges thereof.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)